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STAR OF MYSORE

OUR EVENING DAILY

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MYSURU Friday 18th June 2021
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IMA National Protest Day

- To express anguish against assault on COVID duty doctors
- IMA Mysuru submits memorandum to DC
- Doctors attend to patients wearing black ribbon

Mysuru, June 18 (RKB&SSV)- In response to a call from the Indian Medical Association (IMA) to observe June 18 as 'IMA National Protest Day,' the office-bearers and members of IMA, Mysuru Branch, today registered their protest against instances of assaults on medical professionals with the slogan 'Save the Saviours.'

They are demanding a Central law to protect doctors against violence. Over 1,000 doctors, who are members of IMA Mysuru are attending duty by wearing black ribbon as a mark of protest. All over the country, around 3,50,000 IMA members are participating in today's protest.

During the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the entire medical fraternity, right from day one, has been battling at the frontlines. The IMA has lost more than 1,400 of its 'proactive veterans and dynamic younger ones' in the battle against COVID-19, said Dr. Anand Ravi, President, IMA, Mysuru, after submitting a memorandum to Deputy Commissioner Dr. Bagadi Gautham, here this morning, along with Secretary Dr. Chadrabhan Singh.

IMA Mysuru delegation submitting a memorandum to DC Dr. Bagadi Gautham this morning. Picture right shows doctors attending patients at K.R. Hospital wearing black ribbon.

The memorandum, addressed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, stated that there had been violence against doctors on COVID duty in the last two weeks in Assam, Bihar, West Bengal, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka and many other places. Doctors have sustained multiple fractures and serious injuries and female doctors face more violent verbal and physical assaults. Every day it is happening.

(See PROTEST on page 12)

Get Driving Licence without a driving test at RTO!

New guidelines will come into effect from July 1

New Delhi, June 18 (Agencies)- In a bid to cut down on long queues and extended waiting periods at Regional Transport Offices (RTOs), the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has notified rules for accredited driving training centres where candidates will be provided high-quality driving courses.

Once candidates clear their driving course tests, they will be granted an exemption from driving tests while obtaining a driving licence from an RTO. The new guidelines will come into effect from July 1 and this will allow private driving training schools to function, who have been granted accreditation either by the State Transport Authority or the Central Government.

The Ministry stated that accreditation will be given to centres that meet the criteria of space, driving track, IT and biometric system and carry out the training as per prescribed syllabus. The move from the Centre has come to tackle the high number of road accident-related deaths that take place every year. With these new guidelines, the Ministry aims to increase skills and train the drivers.

File photo of driving test track at RTO East in Mysuru.

What are the new guidelines?

Training centres will be granted accreditation for a period of five years at the end of which they can get it renewed as well.

For Light Motor Vehicles (LMVs), the duration of driving course will be 29 hours in a span of maximum four weeks from the date of commencement of the course. The course will be divided in two parts: Theory and practice.

For Heavy Motor Vehicles (HMVs), candidates undergoing training to drive medium or HMVs at such centres will be trained across 38 hours in a span of six weeks. Similar to the LMV course, the HMV course too will be divided into theory and practice.

Another key highlight of this course is training for how one should behave while driving. In this, candidates will undergo training for ethical and courteous behaviour with other road users while driving.

STAR OF MYSORE

"We believe comment is free, but facts are sacred."

Editor: M. GOVINDE GOWDA, M.A.

Mysuru, Friday 18th June 2021

'Karnataka Vaggeya Vahini'

Mysuru, June 18- Sri Thyagaraja Sangeetha Sabha Charitable Trust, Mysuru, will be presenting Karnatak classical compositions of senior musician, musicologist and composer, Prof. R. Visweswaran on Saturdays at 5 pm under the series 'Karnataka Vaggeya Vahini', on the Sabha's YouTube channel, commencing from June 19.

Prof. R. Visweswaran

The compositions of Prof. Visweswaran are known for the fine embodiment of the highest values of Vaggeyatva and have been appreciated by scholars like Veena Balachander, R.K. Srikantan, S. Krishnamurthy. His compositions are more than 150 and his book 'Vaggeya Visweswari' contains 112 of them. The episodes will have teaching sessions by Prof. Visweswaran, followed by rendition of krithis by the disciples with accompaniments, which will be of great help to music students to learn the fine compositions.

Music-lovers may visit Sabha's *Facebook page: Sri ThyagarajaSangeetha Sabha Charitable Trust, Mysore* or *YouTube Channel: Sri ThyagarajaSangeetha Sabha Charitable Trust.*

EDITOR'S BOTTOMLINE

LOCKDOWN COUNTDOWN: ***We've learnt the hard way that the virus is more macrobe than microbe. We have bowed to it, reverentially chanting 'Coronamaha – namaha'. Even those who dismissed Patanjali's ancient science as 'yogarbage' began practising its mindful-breathing kriyas as if their life depended on it. It did. Alas, far too often, COVID's deathly stranglehold made 'pranayama' more about 'Yama' than 'prana'. Now, although no one will dare boast that we have achieved the victorious ujjayi breath, we are being allowed to slowwwly exhale. Ignore that adverb, and plunge into adversity again.***

Unlocking is happening differently in different States and at different levels within them. Baby steps are needed, not reckless swag. As the saying goes, 'Covidiots rush in where antibodies fear to tread.' So while we inch towards the forgotten normalcy, we must not let down our guard or our masks. Remember we haven't yet washed our hands of the virus. And Covidji never keeps a 'do gaj ki doori'. He luvves parties.

So let's look at the Dos and Don'ts for the places which were closed for so long and which are now, opening up. Phew! Actually, go easy on that. Too many 'Phews!' could throw us back into curfews.

Malls. Online shopping was both saviour and safety-valve during lockdown, but we all know that it simply couldn't provide the multiple experiences of the real thing. Just as teens don't go to college only to study, or not even that, we don't go to these plate-glass paradises, these consumerist Mt Kailashes only to shop, or just window-shop. But watch it. Malls are even bigger maulers of pandemic control than of self-control.

Gyms. Yes, these months have made us feel as if we'd never 'get off the treadmill'. Here too, please follow the distancing rules. The wait is worth its weight in gold. Don't be a dumb-belle or dumber dude. Exercise caution. Abs-olutely.

Salons. Yes, again, the pandemic has been a very long bad hair day — literally as well. Those lockdown locks might be as grey as a monsoon day, but follow the COVID protocolour.

Restaurants. As with all the above social hotspots, the tragedy is that it's not only the violator who gets his just desserts. His whole family and social circle land in the soup. After that concentric circles get stewed.

Beaches. Before you splash out, remember there's always the next wave.

Alec Smart said: "Get vaccinated. Don't chicken out on the tika." — *Bachi Karkaria in The Times of India*

NEWS SPARKLERS

Woman gives birth to decuplets in South Africa

Tembisa: A 37-year-old woman from South Africa has reportedly given birth to the world's first decuples – 10 babies from a single pregnancy.

The first recorded case of decuplets is currently shrouded in mystery, as ten days since the woman allegedly brought the 10 babies into the world, no one has seen either the mother or the newborns. Media reports and statements made by the babies' father and other relatives, all of which claim that Gosiame Thamara Sithole did in fact give birth to 10 babies – seven boys and three girls – at the end of a 29-week pregnancy. Apart from the suspicious absence of the mother, there are a few things that don't really add up, though...

If Gosiame Thamara Sithole is confirmed to have given birth to 10 babies, she will break the record set last month by 25-year-old Halima Cissé, who gave birth to nine babies at a clinic in Morocco.

Bar staffed by female weight-training enthusiasts

Tokyo: Muscle Girls is a Tokyo-based women's gym that doubles as a fitness-themed bar staffed by a group of young, muscular women.

Muscle Girls is the country's first and only bar dedicated to female weightlifting. Founded by a young fitness enthusiast who goes by the name of Eri Muscle, Muscle Girls started out as a women's gym, but recently transitioned into the entertainment industry, opening its own unique bar as well as a popular YouTube channel. Photos and videos of the venue started going viral earlier this year, mainly because of its staff, which is made up exclusively of muscular, fitness-loving girls.

Muscle Girls also has a list of activities that patrons can engage in for a fee, including acting as a trainer for the girls, tipping their favourite muscles, getting fed protein shake from a syringe, and taking photos with the girls.

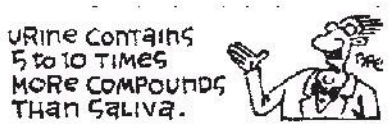
HEALTH CAPSULE

Fight against brittle bone disease with right treatment. It is a genetic disorder that makes the bones to break very easily without any fall or injury. Taking right medications and treatment will help in the effective management of the condition

Dr.Ravikiran – *Consultant Orthopedicsand Joint Replacement Surgeon*

COLUMBIA ASIA
COLUMBIA ASIA HOSPITAL - MYSORE
A unit of ManipalHospitals

** Health Capsule is not intended to be of a diagnostic nature*



Researchers have identified 3,079 compounds contained in urine and counting over 2,000 of these compounds come from diet, drugs, cosmetics or environmental exposure. A healthy person's urine is over 95% water and is basically sterile and therefore safe to drink. It even replenishes lost body fluids.

COVID-19 UPDATE - MYSURU

DATES	JUNE 16	JUNE 17
Day's Positive Cases	841	596
Total Positive Cases	1,59,797	1,60,393
Day's Discharges	1,389	892
Total Discharges	1,48,306	1,49,198
Day's Deaths	28	26
Total Deaths	1,938	1,964
Total Active Cases	9,553	9,231

NOTE: Figures as per Government Media Bulletin

Compensation for fruit and vegetable growers

Mysuru, June 18- The Horticulture Department has announced the relief amount for fruit and vegetable growers, who have suffered extensive losses due to COVID-19 lockdown.

As per the scheme, fruit and vegetable farmers of Mysuru taluk will get a maximum relief of Rs. 10,000 and a minimum of Rs. 2,000 per hectare.

The amount has already been credited to all FID registered beneficiaries based on provisional summer and monsoon crop surveys for this year.

The list of non-FID farmers has been put up on the notice board at Horticulture Department and such farmers are advised to contact the Office of Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture before June 19.

For more details, contact the Office of the Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture.

REALLY...?

- ***There is anywhere between 60,000-1,00,000 miles of blood vessels in the human body. If they were taken out and laid end-to-end, they would be long enough to travel around the world more than three times.***
- ***Despite accounting for 2% of our body mass, the brain uses 20% of our oxygen and blood supply.***

LAUGHTER THE BEST MEDICINE

Santa: ***How many apples can you eat on an empty stomach?***
Banta: ***I can eat 6 apples.***
Santa: ***Wrong. You can eat only 1 apple on empty stomach because when you eat the 2nd apple that's not an empty stomach!!***

TODAY'S CURRENCY RATE

1 US Dollar	= Rs. 74.12
1 UK Pound	= Rs. 102.91
1 UAE Dirham	= Rs. 20.18
1 Euro	= Rs. 88.23

VOICE OF THE READER

MCC's door-to-door COVID Testing Drive: Suggestion

Sir,

This refers to the recent news item on the door-to-door COVID testing drive launched by the Mysuru City Corporation (MCC). The RT-PCR testing should not be done to all and sundry (except when it's done free).

RT-PCR testing should be done house-to-house only in case someone is sick (has fever or difficulty in breathing) or if someone suspects he is infected due to contact with a person who is later confirmed to be positive or asymptomatic or when a person needs it for travelling.

RT-PCR testing only indicates the person has or does not have COVID. It does not guarantee that the person who is tested and waiting for the result does not become infected.

The Government is unnecessarily making people spend time and money to get a test done. It only makes sense in the conditions I illustrated above. Hope the new MCC Commissioner will consider my suggestion.

—George Rego
Mysuru
16.6.2021

Calling Blood Banks to form a Forum

Sir,

Free vaccination for people aged between 18 and 44 years will be commencing from June 21. As there is a possibility of donated-blood shortage, all recognised Blood Banks can come together and form a Forum. They can organise 'Blood Collection Centres' close to each Vaccination Centre, of course, with the permission and cooperation of District Health authorities. Hope my suggestion will be considered in the interests of a large number of patients in need of the life-saving blood during emergency.

—D. V. Mohanprakash
Mysuru 17.6.2021

Applications invited for TiE Women Pitchfest 2021

Mysuru, June 18- The Indus Entrepreneurs (TiE), Mysuru, has invited applications from promising women entrepreneurs and Startups for the TiE Women Pitchfest 2021.

TiE Women Pitchfest provides an opportunity to receive mentoring from industry experts and successful entrepreneurs. As part of TiE Women Pitchfest, TiE Mysuru will host a series of workshops and bootcamps for women entrepreneurs to learn from the successful entrepreneurs and experts. It also provides a networking opportunity with investors and entrepreneurs.

Shortlisted ideas will get an opportunity to pitch their ideas to the panel of experts and win cash prizes as well as other benefits. TiE Mysuru will offer one-on-one mentoring to the selected teams.

Eligibility

1. Women-led or Women Co-founded Venture (there should be one woman co-founder).

2. Early stage Startup upto 3 years.

3. Late stage Startup upto 7 years.

4. Sector agnostic (product or service).

5. Preference will be given to the registered Startups (Pvt. Ltd and LLP).

Interested women Startups can register online on *http://bit.ly/tiewomenmysuru* before June 20. TiE Mysuru will nominate the most innovative and promising team to participate in TiE Women Global Pitchfest 2021 which will be held in Dubai in the month of October 2021.

The Indus Entrepreneurs (TiE), Mysuru, is a not-for-profit organisation promoting innovation and entrepreneurship in the region. TiE Mysuru is actively contributing to the Startups ecosystem through networking, mentoring, education, incubation and funding with an intent to generate prosperity through the development of entrepreneurs at all stages and creating community and beneficial relationships to support Startups in Mysuru region.

For details, contact Mahesh Kattale, Executive Director, TiE Mysuru Chapter on Mob: +91 9448154063 or *tie.mysuru@gmail.com,* according to a press release from Ajith Pai, President, TiE Mysuru Chapter.

Making India's Pharmaceutical industry future ready

Ministry of Health & Family Welfare Joint Secretary Dr. Mandeep Bhandari inaugurates virtual workshop

Mysuru, June 18- The third of a series of six virtual workshops on 'current Good Manufacturing Practices (cGMP)' to support the Indian Pharmaceutical industry's vision of providing world class quality medical products was inaugurated on June 14 by Dr. Mandeep Bhandari, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India.

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought into sharp focus and reinforced the need to enhance quality production for sustainable supply chains to meet national and global needs. These workshops address the vital importance of strengthening the capacities of Pharma manufacturing facilities meet current good manufacturing practices and sharing global practices to promote availability and access to quality medical products.

This unique initiative is the result of an active collaboration between the Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW), the World Health Organization (WHO), JSS Academy of Higher Education & Research at Mysuru (JSS AHER) and the Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance (IPA).

In his inaugural address, Dr. Bhandari said, "This initiative of establishing a robust learning and training platform meets the critical need of enabling further upgradation of pharmaceutical sector for global standards of quality. This will have a far-reaching positive impact. It reiterates our commitment to quality medical products and reinforces our position of being the vaccine hub and pharmacy of the world."

Dr. Mandeep Bhandari

Welcoming the capacity-strengthening workshops, Dr. V.G. Somani, Drug Controller General of India, said, "We are committed to the highest regulatory standards to ensure quality, safety and efficacy of medical products."

Speaking on the occasion, the WHO representatives from HQ, WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia and WHO Country Office for India said, "It is for the first time anywhere in the world that we have attempted a programme like this. WHO is fully committed to supporting such endeavours. Given the encouraging response to the earlier workshops, we hope to expand the outreach and have participation from other countries in the Region through the WHO South East Asia Regulatory Network."

The genesis of these workshops is a survey of the pharmaceutical sector in India by WHO in 2014, which had recommended further strengthening of the cGMP with the support of WHO.

"The virtual workshops on cGMP is a key step in that direction and we are delighted to partner in this path-breaking programme," said Sudarshan Jain, Secretary General, Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance.

National and international experts, including from WHO and leading industry voices came together to design a need-based workshop. This was followed by a pilot workshop on cGMP for pharmaceutical units in December 2020 on a unique and dedicated WHO-JSS AHER web portal.

"It is a privilege for us to have anchored this initiative. We are grateful to Health Ministry, WHO and partners for the faith reposed in us," said Dr. Surinder Singh, Vice-Chancellor, JSS AHER.

Dr. B. Suresh, Pro Chancellor, JSS AHER said, "The workshops are an important step for enabling the enhancement of pharma standards and contributing to global agendas, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development."

Under this initiative, a total of six workshops are being conducted — two for formulation manufacturing pharma units, three for active pharmaceutical ingredients manufacturing units and one for medical devices and IVD manufacturers. Cumulatively, over 650-plus participants from over 185 units will take part in this capacity-strengthening programme. The third workshop had 125 participants from 40 pharma units.

For more information about the virtual workshops, contact Dr. Vishal Kumar Gupta, Deputy Director (Academics), JSS Academy of Higher Education & Research on email: *vishalkumargupta@jssuni.edu.in* or Mob: 92421-57508.

High Court directs State Govt. not to declare II PU results till decision on promotion policy

Bengaluru, June 18 (UNI)- The Karnataka High Court on Thursday directed the State Government not to declare the results of II PU fresher candidates till the expert committee decides on the promotion policy.

A Division Bench comprising Justice B.V. Nagarathna and Justice Hanchate Sanjeevkumar handed the interim order on a PIL filed by S.V. Singre Gowda, Managing Trustee of Gnana Mandira Education Trust, Bengaluru.

The petitioner had questioned the decision of the Karnataka authorities to advertise solely recent/common college students without holding exams and conduct exams for repeaters and personal candidates when COVD-19 pandemic eases.

The Bench handed the order after being knowledgeable that the Government has arranged a 12-member professional committee to counsel methodology to be utilised for promoting repeaters of II PU if the exams weren't be carried out for them on the traces of freshers/ common college students of II PU within the tutorial 12 months 2020-21.

As the petitioner submitted the plea on behalf of personal candidates, as a lot of them might not have appeared for the primary 12 months PU exams, the Bench directed the Government to instruct the professional committee to look at the methodology to be utilised to advertise all different classes of repeater college students without holding exams for the II PU programmes.

NEWS BRIEFS

Direct Phone-in prog.

A direct phone-in programme to redress the grievances of the public, related to the activities and programmes of the **Department of Women and Child Development,** will be held on June 21 from 10.30 am to 11.30 am. Deputy Director of the Department K. Padma will be participating in this phone-in programme. Public are requested to dial Ph: 0821-2495432 to air their complaints.

The **Horticulture Department** is also holding a Phone-in programme for farmers on June 21 from 11 am to 12 pm. Farmers can contact the Department Office on Ph: 0821-2420066 to air their grievances.

Applications invited

Minority Welfare Department has invited applications for the post of guest faculties (teachers) in the following five Moulana Azad Model (English Medium) Schools of Mysuru district: Kesare Urdu School, Nizamia School, Moulana Azad Bhavan, Hunsur Town Urdu School and Halaganahalli, Periyapatna. Candidates who have passed B.A, B.Sc, M.A or M.Sc with B.Ed and able to teach Kannada, English, Hindi, Social Science, Mathematics and Science subjects are eligible to apply and will be selected based on merit, experience and teaching ability. Those selected will get a monthly remuneration of Rs. 8,000. Interested can submit their applications along with necessary documents to the Department of Minority Welfare, Moulana Azad Bhavan, Near Shobha Garden, opposite Dandi Maramma Temple on Bengaluru-Mysuru Road before June 28 or call Mob: 82177-43399, 97399-44171 or 89510-87207.

WATER LEVEL

KRS DAM

Maximum	:	124.80	feet
Today	:	86.80	feet
Yesterday	:	84.62	feet
Inflow	:	13,702	cusecs
Outflow	:	375	cusecs

KABINI DAM

Maximum	:	2,284.00	feet
Today	:	2,271.82	feet
Inflow	:	16,405	cusecs
Outflow	:	700	cusecs

HARANGI DAM

Maximum	:	2,859.00	feet
Today	:	2,833.41	feet
Inflow	:	1,186	cusecs
Outflow	:	80	cusecs

Maternity section at SMT Hospital opens

By M.T. Yogesh Kumar

Mysuru, June 18- The maternity section of Seth Mohandas Tulsidas (SMT) Hospital — built and inaugurated to exclusively treat COVID-infected pregnant women — has been declared open three days back and 24 women are availing treatment here.

Over 50 beds have been reserved for pregnant women and an exclusive section has been earmarked at the Hospital. The existing 24 patients including neo-natal mothers at the 30-bed Lakshmidevamma Shankarashetty Maternity Hospital at Jayalakshmipuram have been shifted to Tulsidas Hospital.

Tulsidas Hospital Nodal Officer Dr. A.P. Somashekar, speaking to *Star of Mysore* said that henceforth all COVID-infected pregnant women and mothers will be treated here and they will be examined by the doctors for the virus load, stages of pregnancy and the appropriate treatment required. "We have advanced facilities like operation theatre, ICUs, labour ward and top-notch treatment will be provided," he added.

There are four ICUs at Tulsidas Hospital and three ventilators are available. There are 43 oxygenated beds. Both dedicated Antenatal Care or ANC (first contact with the health care system when a woman is expecting) and Postnatal Care (PNC) (care given to the new-born baby immediately after birth) facilities are available here.

Patients are treated with the help of doctors at Cheluvamba Hospital and Health and Family Welfare Department and they work in three shifts. "We have 15 paediatricians, 15 obstetricians and 10 anaesthetists at our disposal and we have good number of nurses too," Somashekar said.

Lakshmidevamma Shankarashetty Hospital

The State-run Lakshmidevamma Shankarashetty Maternity Hospital at Jayalakshmipuram (V.V. Puram) has done yeoman service to COVID-infected pregnant women since the first wave and has so far successfully delivered 497 babies. When the first wave struck Mysuru there was a desperate need for an exclusive hospital for infected pregnant women as the District Hospital had been converted into a COVID Hospital.

Lakshmidevamma Shankarashetty Maternity Hospital to admit non-COVID patients

The then Mysuru Deputy Commissioner Abhiram G. Sankar had asked Lakshmidevamma Shankarashetty Maternity Hospital authorities to make exclusive arrangements and a dedicated hospital took birth within days and was opened on April 2, 2020. Prior to this, no infected pregnant woman was being admitted to any Private Hospital because of the fear factor.

Under the guidance of Cheluvamba Hospital Medical Superintendent Dr. Sudha Rudrappa and head of Gynaecology Department Dr. Sudha, Dr. Malathi served as the Administrative Officer of Lakshmidevamma Shankarashetty Maternity Hospital and efficiently discharged her duties. After she was shifted to the District Hospital, Dr. Kempegowda served as the Administrative Officer.

Pregnant women are at a higher risk of contracting COVID-19 and they are vulnerable to infection because of the changes in their body and weaker immune system. Though it was a huge challenge, the Hospital employees were extra cautious to ensure that no harm was caused to either mother or the new-born. All measures were followed to ensure that the babies do not contract any virus.

At present, as the existing patients have been shifted to Seth Mohandas Tulsidas Hospital, the Shankarashetty Maternity Hospital as been completely sanitised for two days and has been opened as a 30-bed Non-COVID Maternity Hospital. Even the OPD has started functioning and already six women are being treated here.

'Refer all Corona positive 45-plus comorbidity patients to COVID Care Centres'

- **Meeting with Private Hospital representatives held**
- **List of COVID deaths from March 1 till date sought**

Mysuru, June 18 (SSV)- Following accusations against Private Hospitals for delay in reporting COVID related deaths, the District Health Department has instructed all Private Hospitals to compulsorily refer COVID positive patients, who are above 40 years of age and with comorbidities to COVID Care Centres (CCCs), after triage.

That means, it is a must for Private Hospitals that have triage facility to mandatorily send patients testing positive after the swab test to CCC, if they are 40 years of age and suffering from blood pressure, diabetes and other ailments. However, home isolation will be allowed only for those COVID positive tested patients, below 40 years of age, with no comorbidities, that too after passing fitness test.

A meeting with the representatives of Private Hospitals was held here yesterday to take stock of the situation in the wake of fingers being pinpointed at them for delay in reporting COVID deaths.

Two days ago, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Dr. Bagadi Gautham and District Surveillance officer Dr. Shivaprasad had opined that delay in sharing death details by both Private Hospitals and Government Hospitals has been one of the main reasons for late reporting of COVID deaths.

A senior Health Department Officer, who attended the meeting, told *SOM* that the Private Hospitals were strictly told not to shift critical patients to Government Hospitals after trying out various methods of treatment.

Presently, some hospitals admit Corona positive patients no matter whether they have capacity or capability to treat Corona positive patients and give up when patients condition goes worse. Then they will advise of patients to shift to Government Hospitals. In the process, many patients die soon after their admission into Government Hospitals.

Give list of COVID deaths since March 1

The officer said that Private Hospitals were told to furnish a list of patients who died of Corona since March 1, 2021 following the State Government's announcement of giving Rs. 1 lakh compensation to BPL families that has lost its earning member due to COVID-19 pandemic. Besides, any COVID death happens in any Private Hospital from 10 am of today to 10 am the next day, must be immediately brought to the notice of District Health Office by sending an official mail.

This would help not only in daily reporting of COVID deaths without inordinate delay. The representatives of Hospitals must appear before the Death Audit Committee daily to explain reasons for the death of patients. Presently, deaths due to multi-organ failure, post COVID-19 recovery were not reported in time causing delay in updating district death figure daily, he added.

The officer said that as per instructions, every death occurs in Private or Government Hospital must be audited as it needs to be explained to general public and added that this delay was not only happening in Private Hospitals but also in Government Hospitals.

Collect swab, send to Govt. labs for free testing

The Private Hospitals have been strictly instructed to do swab testing of primary, secondary or symptomatic persons and send it to Government laboratories for free testing.

There was an emergent need to do this as Corona positive cases were not declining despite making all efforts by District Administration resulting in many people hesitating to come to Government facilities for COVID tests. Such people can give swab sample to Private Hospitals from where the same could be sent to the Government laboratories for free testing.

Death audit of 270 deaths still pending

The officer said that the death audit of around 270 persons who died in the last 15-20 days, was yet to be held due to delay in uploading details in portal. Representatives of both Private and Government Hospitals have to appear before the committee to explain the cause of death.

"The number of deaths in Mysuru district will be on the higher side for the next one week since we have to show the cause of death of 270 persons. Once everything is set right, accurate death figure will be shown in the official bulletin," the officer said.

The meeting was attended by Family Planning Officer and Nodal Officer for COVID-19 Vaccination in Private Hospitals Dr. P. Ravi, Divisional Joint Director Dr. Udaykumar and District Surveillance Officer Dr. Shivaprasad.

Minister Shashikala Jolle to tour Chamarajanagar district tomorrow

Shashikala Jolle

Chamarajanagar, June 18- Women and Child Welfare Minister Shashikala Jolle will undertake a one-day tour of Chamarajanagar district tomorrow (June 19).

The Minister, who will arrive at Chamarajanagar at 9.45 am, will visit Kottalawadi in the taluk and console the girl child, who recently lost her parents in the second wave of the deadly COVID pandemic.

Later, the Minister will hold a meeting of officials and people's representatives at the DC Office at 11 am, during which she will discuss the measures that are to be taken in case of a subsequent COVID-19 wave.

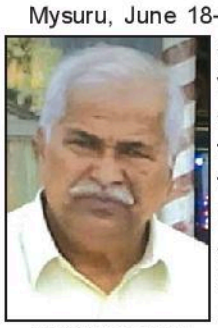
Lake maintenance: HC directs Govt. to form district-level committees

Bengaluru, June 18- With lakes disappearing fast and lake beds being encroached upon for formation of layouts, the Karnataka High Court has directed the Government to form district-level committees for maintenance and development of lakes.

A Division Bench headed by Chief Justice A.S. Oka, which heard a petition filed by Environment Protection Group on Wednesday, observed that such a committee is necessary for conservation of lakes other than those coming under City Corporations and Municipal limits.

Pointing out that the respective Deputy Commissioner must head the district-level committees, the Court said that ZP CEO, a Forest Department official and representatives of Minor Irrigation Department and Karnataka State Pollution Control Board will be members of the committee. The District Legal Services Authority should function as the Member–Secretary of the Committee, the Court further said.

Former KIKS faculty H.K. Rajegowda passes away



H.K.Rajegowda

Mysuru, June 18- H.K. Rajegowda (83), veteran writer and a retired senior faculty of University of Mysore's Kuvempu Institute of Kannada Studies (KIKS), passed away here yesterday following brief illness.

A resident of Saraswathipuram, he leaves behind his son Dineshchandra, daughter Chetana, son-in-law K.T. Balakrishna, an IPS officer, who had served as Mysuru Police Commissioner and a host of relatives and friends.

H.K. Rajegowda had also served as a Special Officer at Bengaluru's NGEF. As a writer, he has over 60 works to his credit and had bagged many awards and prizes, including Geeshampa Folk Award, Chunchashri Award, M.L. Srikantegowda Research prize, Vishwamanava Award, Karnataka Janapada Academy Award and H.D. Chowdaiah Literary Award.

Last rites were performed at his native village Hanumanahalli in Nagamangala taluk of Mandya district this afternoon.

Boy dies after falling into water-filled bucket

Samarth

Hanagod, June 18 (Mahesh&KS) - A two-and-a-half-year-old boy, who was playing in front of his house, reportedly died after falling inside a water-filled bucket yesterday evening.

The deceased boy is Samarth, son of Sundar Raj, former Dharmapura Gram Panchayat President.

It is learnt that, while the family members were busy inside the house, Samarth went out to play in front of the house. While playing, Samarth accidentally fell inside a big bucket filled with water which was kept in kept in front of the house and got drowned.

As Samarth did not come inside the house, his father Sundar Raj came out in search of him only to find him drowned inside the water-filled bucket.

No case has been registered and the last rites were held yesterday night.

Obituary

Dr. Syed Hussain

Mysuru, June 18 - Dr. Syed Hussain (70), retired Assistant Director, Department of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Sciences and a resident of Banimantap 'C' Layout, passed away yesterday night at a private hospital in city.

He leaves behind his wife, two sons, one daughter and a host of relatives and friends.

Namaz-e-Janaza and burial took place at the Muslim Burial Grounds near Tipu Circle today, according to family sources.

COVID cripples city car sales

Car dealers hope for good sales in the next festive season

Mysuru, June 18 (BCT)- The second wave of COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent lockdown has severely dented car sales in Mysuru. While every major car dealer reported good sale after the first wave when the market picked up, the numbers simply nosedived in the second wave, washing out sales in April, May and most likely June too.

P.M. Ganapathy, Vice-President, Mandovi Motors, speaking to *Star of Mysore* said, "We are keeping our fingers crossed and sincerely hoping for good sales once the lockdown is lifted. Last year in the second half of March and April 2020 was a zero-sale month. In fact in the history of automobile industry it was for the first time we heard about zero-invoice month. But after May we started functioning and things started looking up and sales improved though it took some days to stabilise."

Pre-owned sales pick up

"The market picked up and towards the end of last year, we were doing extremely well as public transport was considered a risk and everyone wanted their own mode of transport. Now all of a sudden again a vacuum has been created with the second wave. Even if the lockdown is open from June 21, business will not start immediately. It will take a month or so to streamline though we have our customers with pending bookings waiting to take deliveries," Ganapathy added.

"Because of the pandemic, at least 15 to 20 percent of the customers defer their purchases of new cars and many are going for the pre-owned car. Maruti True Value, our pre-owned car segment sales, have picked up very well and we are not able to cater to the requirement as people who have cars are not selling them and buying new ones," he noted.

Customer sentiment important

Urs Kar Managing Director Kanthraj Urs too said that sales have come to a standstill since the last 60 days. "After last year's lockdown we were worried whether the industry itself will survive or not but luckily the post-lockdown sales were good as we had a good pent-up demand and we grew in all the brands we represent. Again this year there is a sales slump and we are not sure how things will progress though we are sitting on good bookings. It all depends on customer sentiments," he said.

Compared to last time, the impact of COVID in the second wave was harsh and so there is uncertainty. "We only wish that things will start looking up. The size of the Mysuru market is about 1,200 cars and two-wheelers are about 7,000 in all categories and right now it is zero as all dealers out together would have sold about 20 cars or so. Of course, the lack of sales will have its impact on the Government too as the automobile sector gives 28 percent of the GST. Also the road tax and the overall revenue loss will be about 40 to 45 percent on the overall sale we do. Mysuru is a Rs. 100 crore market," Kanthraj Urs said adding that the pandemic has improved the resale value of used cars and is a win-win situation to the seller and the buyer.

Ashada sale slump

Director of Shah Automotives Mayur Shah said that financial year April 2020 to March 2021 was a combination of good and bad. "The volume of sales and turnover were definitely less and now it is zero. We have huge cost implications on the inventory we have. Lockdown or no lockdown, sales or no sales, we have to pay bank interest. But last year, Honda beautifully matched the demand and supply equation and we have had the least inventory and we paid less interest to the banks," he noted.

But the service section took a hit as most customers did not turn up for service and there was a less intake. "Inventory and salaries were the two major problems but we managed. **For now even if lockdown is lifted from June 21 we will not have good sales as *Ashada* month is starting on July 11 and there will be no sales again for a month. We have a very short window from June 21 (in case the curbs are lifted) till the beginning of *Ashada*. We are hoping that sales will pick up after *Ashada* when the festival season arrives,**" he said hopefully.

Production constraint

L. Sunil Gowda, Managing Director (Owner), Honnasiri Nissan and Operations Manager Divitha Ganapathy said that the pandemic has hit the industry badly. "We have a new brand Nissan Magnite that had picked up sales as booking went beyond expectations. But due to the lockdown, production is the constraint — booking ratio and production ration are not matching," they said.

"Also what variants customers are booking are not being produced and what variants are produced are not bought by the customers. Sales have been badly hit this year when compared to 2020 as people are saving money for emergencies and are treading a cautious path. We need at least a month or so after the lockdown is lifted for the sales to bounce back," Divitha Ganapathy opined.

Good demand but no supply

Senior Manager (Sales) of Cauvery Ford Sujith said that though bookings were very good they were not able to deliver the vehicles due to the pandemic. "The demand was there as there were good bookings but due to production and supply chain issues, we could not fulfil the demand as it takes a minimum of three months for a vehicle to be delivered. After the last year's lockdown, sales picked up really well and there was no sign of the second wave. Now people are cautious and the threat of third wave too looms large. We are really hoping for good sales," he said.

> **"Because of the pandemic, at least 15 to 20 percent of the customers defer their purchases of new cars and many are going for the pre-owned car. Maruti True Value, our pre-owned car segment sales, have picked up very well and we are not able to cater to the requirement.**
>
> **— P.M. Ganapathy, Vice-President, Mandovi Motors**

> **"The lack of sales will have its impact on the Government too as the automobile sector gives 28 percent of the GST. Also the road tax and the overall revenue loss will be about 40 to 45 percent on the overall sale we do. Mysuru is a Rs. 100 crore market."**
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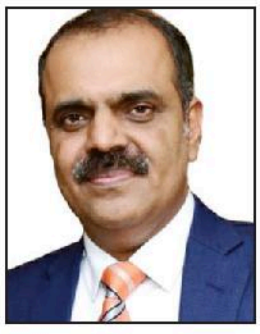
> **— Kanthraj Urs, Managing Director, Urs Kar**

> **"We have a new brand Nissan Magnite that had picked up sales as booking went beyond expectations. But due to the lockdown, production is the constraint — booking ratio and production ration are not matching."**
>
> **— L. Sunil Gowda, Managing Director (Owner), Honnasiri Nissan**

> **"Now there is no sale due to lockdown and if at all we open on June 21, there is *Ashada* and customer sentiments have to be respected. We are hoping that the market will pick up during the next festival season. We are hoping for the best and optimistic.**
>
> **— Sujith, Senior Manager (Sales), Cauvery Ford**

> **"During lockdown there are zero sales. Pre and post-pandemic too we have had good bookings mainly due to product diversity, quality and maintenance-free. Yes, due to the pandemic, the vehicle waiting period has gone up.**
>
> **— Ajay Singh, Director, Sales & Marketing, Advaith Hyundai**



"Now there is no sale due to lockdown and if at all we open on June 21, there is *Ashada* and customer sentiments have to be respected. We are hoping that the market will pick up during the next festival season. It all depends on the third wave and how real the threat is. But we are hoping for the best and optimistic," Sujith added.

Range of products, quality make a difference

Among automobile companies, Hyundai is doing extremely well with a range of products that suit customer expectations and value for money, said Ajay Singh, Director, Sales and Marketing, Advaith Hyundai. "Of course, during lockdown there are zero sales. Pre and post-pandemic too we have had good bookings mainly due to product diversity, quality and maintenance-free. Yes, due to the pandemic and supply chain issue, the vehicle waiting period has gone up," he said.

In the post-COVID world, people who want to upgrade from a two-wheeler to four-wheeler because of the risks involved in public transport, prefer Hyundai and models like Nios, Santro, i20, Creta and Venue did good sales. "The SUV market has just exploded and today we launched Hyundai Alcazar, a 7-seater SUV and the response is very good with online bookings where the deliveries will happen post-pandemic. We are the only company that offers a product range from Rs. 6 lakh to Rs. 35 lakh and we are looking at good sales after lockdown is lifted," Ajay Singh added.

BJP Government's corruption and shady deals

Congress to submit documents to probe agencies

Mysuru, June 18 (RKB&DM)- Charging the State BJP Government of rampant corruption and abuse of power, the Congress will submit vital documents that it has gathered on Government's corruption and shady deals, to investigation agencies such as ED (Enforcement Directorate), CBI and also to the Chief Justice of Karnataka High Court soon.

Addressing a press meet at the Congress Bhavan near the City Railway Station here this morning, State Congress Spokesperson M. Lakshmana said that the people were upset with Government's corruption and several BJP leaders were themselves taking on their own Government on this front.

Citing the statements of BJP MLC A.H. Vishwanath, who is making charges of corruption against Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa and his son B.Y. Vijayendra almost every other day, Lakshmana termed the present BJP dispensation in the State as most corrupt and incompetent.

Claiming that the BJP Government has borrowed a whopping Rs.1.80 lakh crore as loan through the RBI in just two years after coming to power, Lakshmana wondered where all the money had gone. Maintaining that BJP leaders were busy in sharing the loot while people were in deep distress due to COVID, he urged the Chief Minister to quit the post and dissolve the Government if he has any regards for the people.

Referring to BJP MLA Aravind Bellad's charges that his phones were being tapped by the Government, Lakshmana questioned why the outspoken BJP Minister R. Ashok, who always takes lead in defending the Government during any crisis, was silent on the issue when his fellow MLA has made a serious charge against the Government. He also sought to know what action the Home Minister, to whom Bellad has complained on phone-tapping, will take.

Congress Spokesperson M. Lakshmana addressing a press meet at Congress Bhavan near City Railway Station here this morning as others look on.

Kurubarahalli issue

Referring to Kurubarahalli Survey No. 4 issue, Lakshmana said that the High Court has ordered the authorities to issue Khata and other land records to property owners in Siddarthanagar and K.C. Layout, which have been formed by MUDA on lands coming under Kurubarahalli Survey No. 4. But the previous DC Rohini Sindhuri had failed to issue any land records, despite the Court's ruling which is nothing but contempt of court.

"The previous DC Rohini Sindhuri has made MUDA a party in the case pertaining to Kurubarahalli Survey No.4 in order to save herself from Contempt of Court charges, by not ordering issue of land records to property owners in Kurubarahalli Survey No.4 even though the Court has declared that the lands coming under the said survey number was not B-Kharab. Rohini has also made MUDA to pay Rs.40 lakh as fees to Supreme Court Advocates in a bid to save herself from her lapses," he argued.

Wondering why K.R. MLA S. A. Ramdas, who was all along raising Kurubarahalli Survey No. 4 row, was now silent on the issue at a time when the MLA should have been working for getting property owners their land records, Lakshmana also questioned the silence of MP Pratap Simha, ever since two women IAS Officers were transferred out of Mysuru.

Accusing Simha of causing rift between the two IAS Officers (Rohini Sindhuri and Shilpa Nag), Lakshmana lashed out at the MP for going into silence all of a sudden. He also charged Simha of keeping away from the people at this hour of crisis, by shutting down his (Simha) Facebook account.

COVID deaths

On the issue of COVID deaths, Lakshmana charged that the district administration had grossly under-counted or under-reported the actual deaths in the district due to the pandemic.

Maintaining that as per his information, the district has recorded over 5,000 deaths ever since the outbreak last year while the official figure was below 2,000, Lakshmana urged the new DC Dr. Bagadi Gautham to come up with actual figures in order to clear the air on the issue.

Lakshmana also termed the Chief Minister's Rs.1 lakh relief to families who lost their earning member due to COVID as bogus, saying that the relief will benefit only a few. He urged the Government to announce relief to everyone who died of COVID.

Charging District Minister S.T. Somashekar of merely visiting the city every now and then, he alleged that the District Minister has done nothing for expediting developmental and infrastructure works in the district.

Congress leaders Shivanna, Girish, Shivalingaiah and Mahesh were present at the press conference.

PM launches Customised Crash Course to train one lakh frontline workers

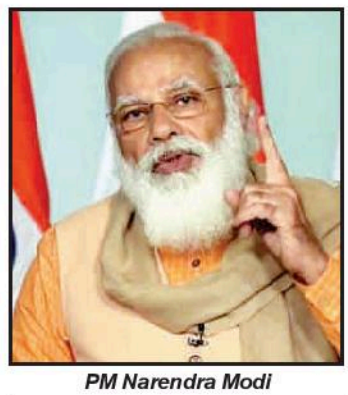
New Delhi, June 18 (UNI) - Prime Minister Narendra Modi today virtually launched a 'Customised Crash Course' programme to train one lakh frontline workers.

While unveiling the programme virtually, the PM said, 'COVID-19 is very much among us with a strong possibility of the virus being mutated. Hence, the country's preparations have to be stepped up to meet the new challenges. We are working towards preparing 1 lakh frontline workers in the country.'

He further said that the Centre is committed to providing COVID vaccination free to everyone.

He said that work to set up more than 1,500 oxygen plants is underway and efforts are on to reach out to every district.

Designed under the Central Component of Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana 3.0, with total financial outlay of Rs. 276 crore, the programme aims to train over one lakh COVID warriors across the country.



PM Narendra Modi

The training will be imparted in six areas — Home Care Support, Basic Care Support, Advanced Care Support, Emergency Care Support, Sample Collection Support and Medical Equipment Support.

As part of the programme, more than 1 lakh frontline workers will be imparted training across 111 centres in 26 States including Karnataka where Chamarajanagar district has been selected.

Modi launched the crash course via video-conferencing in the presence of Union Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Dr. Mahendra Nath Pandey.

30-40 lakh people lost jobs due to COVID: FKCCI

Bengaluru, June 18 (UNI) - Owing to COVID-induced lockdown, the industrial sector has lost Rs. 75,000 crore this year while fifty percent people have also lost their livelihoods, according to the Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FKCCI).

FKCCI President Perikal M. Sundar has said while the lockdown last year had hit trades and industries hard, some recovery was seen by the start of 2021. During the second wave, which affected us more, with lockdown wiped out all the gains, pushing businesses and employees in the red again. "Out of our 80 lakh registered employees, 30-40 lakh have lost jobs since the onset of the pandemic," he pointed out on Thursday.

He said the major portion of the Rs. 75,000-crore loss was contributed by the statutory payments that businesses have to make even if they are shut. These include electricity bills, employee salaries, interest payments and other fixed overheads.

Perikal M. Sundar

According to him, hospitality, cinema and education have been most-affected sectors.

The exchequer also lost Rs. 10,000 crore in revenue because of the restrictions.

"Businesses and medium-and small-scale enterprises will take at least 2 years to make losses incurred due to COVID," he stated.

BMTC ready to operate buses from June 21

Bengaluru, June 18 (KMS & DM)- With the Government likely to announce further lockdown relaxations in districts where COVID cases are less, including Bengaluru city, following the end of the current lockdown on June 21, the State-run BMTC (Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation) is ready to operate buses in Bengaluru city limits from June 21, with a set of COVID rules and regulations.

As a first move in this regard, BBMP Chief Commissioner Gaurav Gupta held talks with BMTC MD, Bengaluru Police Commissioner and Health Department officials, at the BBMP main office here yesterday.

During the talks, BMTC officials are said to have agreed to operate 50 percent of its fleet from June 21 with a set of rules and regulations, which included capping of bus occupancy at 50 percent of capacity, monitoring of COVID-19 appropriate behaviour by passengers and staff and avoidance of crowding at bus shelters, among others.

As a precautionary and safety measure ahead of probable lockdown relaxation, the BMTC has made COVID tests mandatory at Majestic Bus stand and all its terminals and TTMCs across Bengaluru city.

38th Oxygen Express reaches Bengaluru

Bengaluru, June 18 (UNI) - The 38th Oxygen Express carrying 77.39 tonnes Liquid Medical Oxygen reached the Inland Container Depot, Whitefield, Bengaluru from Rourkela, Odisha.

This train has carried Liquid Medical Oxygen using 4 Cryogenic Containers.

Indian Railways has so far run 443 Oxygen Expresses and transported more than 32,000 tonnes of Liquid Medical Oxygen in 1,830 tankers all over the country and brought relief to 15 States in their fight against COVID-19.

So far, Karnataka has received 4,226.2 tonnes of Liquid Medical Oxygen by Rail.

Farmers stage protest seeking fulfilment of demands

Mysuru, June 18 (RKB&DM)- Asserting that the agrarian community is in deep distress due to COVID crisis, unremunerative farm prices, non payment of dues for agriculture produce and faulty policies of the Government, farmers under the banner of Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha (KRRS) staged a demonstration in front of the Deputy Commissioner's Office here yesterday seeking fulfilment of their demands.

Maintaining that the Government is yet to pay Minimum Support Price (MSP) dues to farmers, the protesters alleged that thousands of farmers are yet to get relief under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana and that sugar factories owe thousands of crores of rupees to farmers, that has accumulated over the years.

They urged the Government to fulfil their 13-point charter of demands which chiefly included formation of a Committee to estimate farmer losses due to COVID crisis, rolling back of GST and SGST on farming equipment, free distribution of sowing seeds and subsidy for fertilisers and pesticides, extension of MGNREG Scheme to cover all agricultural activities, payment of dues for all farm produce procurements made under MSP, establishment of more paddy procurement centres and dropping of land acquisition for Mysuru-Bantwal National Highway, which destroys vast scathe of farm lands all along the route, among others. The farmers later presented a memorandum containing their charter of demands at the DC's Office.

KRRS President Badagalapura Nagendra, office-bearers Hoskote Basavaraju, Puneeth, Vijayendra, Kumar, Chandrashekar and others were present.

Price rise hits common man

Mysuru, June 18 (YDS&SSV)- The prices of essential commodities have hit the ceiling due to steady increase in the prices of petrol and diesel. This has made life of common people miserable.

The hike in fuel prices has impacted auto and cab drivers and truckers. Along with this, the prices of essential commodities have also increased citing increase in petrol and diesel prices. The petrol price has breached Rs. 100 mark per litre at a time when the people were hit by lockdown.

Santosh and Nagesh, Ola-Uber drivers from Bengaluru, told *Star of Mysore* that they had financial problems due to lockdown and are unable to even to pay house rent. However, the State Government relaxed lockdown guidelines and allowed the movement of auto and cabs.

"We came here as a passenger had hired our vehicle from Bengaluru. Our car mileage is 15 km/ litre. Earlier, we would put diesel for Rs. 700 to come to Mysuru but now we have to spend an additional Rs. 300 on the fuel. The Government has fixed Rs. 7-8 per for every km for cabs. Hardly Rs. 400 is saved from each trip, after spending on food," they added.

"We can stop using vehicles due to hike in fuel prices but cannot stop buying essential commodities even if the prices go up. The cost of edible oil that was Rs. 80-90 a few months ago, has now touched Rs.180 which was more than the price of petrol. Living has become impossible in the current costly world. The Union Govt. should step in and roll-back the prices of fuel," they urged.

Aiyappa, Chandra and Puttaswamy, all autorickshaw drivers, said they voted for BJP with a hope that problems of the poor will be solved but their expectations have been disproved. The essential commodities have gone beyond the reach of common people. They have to pay GST for eating in hotels. Days are not far away for diesel to breach Rs. 100 mark. In this situation, how can they drive autorickshaws, they questioned.

They noted they cannot earn Rs. 200 even if they run their vehicles for the whole day. The price of edible oil has touched Rs. 180. In this situation, how it was possible to run a family? Repay vehicle loan? "We have survived on the food kits distributed by donors. A special package of Rs. 3,000 announced by the State Government has not reached us yet," they added.

Artistes seek 'Kalarakshane' scheme to mitigate difficulties

Mysuru, June 18 (MTY&SSV)- Artistes have appealed to the State Government to launch 'Kalarakshane,' a scheme to help the artistes who are in distress due to lockdown imposed to check the spread of COVID-19 pandemic.

A group of artistes submitted a memorandum to Co-operation and District in-Charge Minister S.T. Somashekar and Department of Kannada and Culture Assistant Director H. Chennappa at Kalamandira premises here on Wednesday. The Minister promised to look into their demands.

Ajay Shastri, an anchor of cultural programmes, said that over 2,000 artistes of city have been involved in promotion of art like folk, singing, dance and percussion. Most of them were hit by lockdown. The Government must identify such artistes and implement 'Kalarakshane' scheme for their welfare. They should be given benefits like special package, food kits and free vaccination. The District Administration must be asked to constitute a Committee comprising artistes and officers to implement the proposed scheme.

He also wanted the Government to reduce the age for availing the financial assistance from the Government from the existing 35 years to 25 years so that more people would be benefited.

BJP Spokesperson Mohan, artistes Raghavendraprasad, Gurudutt, Ganesh Bhat, Vishwanath, Krishnamurthy, Ravishankar, Soubhagya Prabhu, Ashwini Shastri, Raghavendra Ratnakar, Pradeep Kiggal, Kamsale Ravi, Kiran, Harish Pandava and others were present.

Fisheries Department aims to produce 40 crore fingerlings this monsoon season

Mysuru, June 18- With the arrival of monsoon, the Department of Fisheries is aiming to produce 40 crore fingerlings in Mysuru Zone (Mysuru, Mandya, Hassan, Kodagu and Chamarajanagar).

In recent times, inland fish cultivation has become a major source of income for farmers and merchants in the district. Due to high demand last year in the local markets, the Department is planning for increased production this year and has already started to produce 20 crore fingerlings at fingerling production units of both Kabini and Nugu Dams in Mysuru.

Speaking to *Star of Mysore,* Senior Deputy Director of Fisheries Department, Mysuru Zone, K. Narayan said, "Fingerlings of popular fish varieties including Catla, Rohu, Mrigal Carp, Common Carp, Grass Carp and Silver Carp are being produced here. There is a huge demand for Catla variety in Mysuru, which grows up to 1 kg within a span of six to seven months, particularly in the months of June and July. Hence, we are aiming to produce more of Catla variety fishes. Depending upon the demand, other varieties will also be cultivated."

"As soon as the local lakes and tanks are full due to rainfall in rainy

season, some people purchase 5-day-old fingerlings for cultivation, while farmers and fish merchants usually prefer 3-month-old fingerlings. Fish sales might have been adversely affected due to the lockdown, but still the demand is huge," he added.

Deputy Director of Mysuru Division Fisheries Department D. Siddiah said, "There are over 100 lakes in Mysuru district which come under Fisheries Department while there are more than 900 lakes in Gram Panchyat (GP) limits. Fish farming is being undertaken in 93 lakes of the Department as well as 120 lakes of GP. Various types of loan facility is available for fish and aquatic farming under Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)."

Child marriages boom amidst COVID lockdown

Mysuru, June 18 (MK&DM)- The deadly COVID -19 pandemic has taken the playful and joyous moments of children,as the State reportedly witnessed a rise in under-age marriages amidst the COVID crisis, with parents eager to marrying off their girl children even before they attain the legal age for marriage.

In Mysuru District, the District Child Protection Unit received 272 complaints on child marriage last year, following the outbreak of the pandemic in March 2020. However, the authorities succeeded in stopping 242 child marriages from taking place, while 30 had already taken place.

The authorities have booked cases against all those concerned in respect of the 30 child marriages that had happened. The authorities said that 27 out of the 272 cases were reported in Mysuru city alone in 2020, out of which 21 child marriages have been stopped, while 6 had taken place before any action could be taken. In 2021, the Child Protection Unit has so far received 24 complaints in the district and 23 child marriages have been stopped. Mysuru City alone accounted for 12 complaints, out of which 8 were stopped and 4 had taken place.

District Child Protection officer S. Diwakar told *Star of Mysore* that most child marriages are taking place due to lack of communication and also because the Police are busy in COVID duties.

Asserting that the authorities will not allow any child marriages to happen if they get a clue or a tip-off even at the last minute, he said that public co-operation was vital for putting an end child marriages.

Pointing out that fellow girl students would have provided information on child marriages if schools functioned, he said that widespread campaigns have been conducted on the dangers of child marriage.

Attributing the rise in child marriages to COVID pandemic and the subsequent lockdown, during which parents are trying to shrug off their responsibility by marrying off their minor daughters with little expenses, Diwakar said that it is alarming to note that several poverty stricken parents are marrying off their under aged daughters secretly in their homes.

SVYM joins hand with L&T

to dedicate 19-bed COVID Care Facility

Mysuru, June 18 (PM&SD)- Swami Vivekananda Youth Movement (SVYM), in association with L&T Technology Services Limited has set up a 19-bed COVID care facility at Saragur.

Addressing a press meet at Patrakarthara Bhavan here this morning, SVYM Chief Executive Officer (CEO) G. Kumar Suryanarayana said, "A new rural COVID care facility with 19-oxygenated beds has been set-up in a record time of 12 days in Saragur town. This new addition further strengthens the hospital's existing 42-bed COVID care facility that has been catering to over three lakh rural and tribal population in H.D. Kote and neighbouring taluks since the last one year."

This new innovative facility will be virtually inaugurated by CEO and Managing Director of L&T Amit Chadha on June 20 at 3.30 pm. Deputy Chief Minister Dr. C.N. Ashwathnarayan, District Minister S.T. Somashekar, MLA C. Anil Kumar and SVYM President Dr. R. Balasubramaniam will be present. There are plans to set up one more 37-bed COVID Care Centre in near future, which would have four beds reserved as ICU.

"In collaboration with the State Government, vaccination campaign for indigenous tribal and rural community members will also be inaugurated on this occasion. So far, the hospital has admitted and managed close to 200 patients from rural areas of surrounding five taluks with moderate to severe COV1D illness," Kumar Suryanarayana said.

Private Hospital hands over body of COVID patient after former MLA intervenes

Mysuru, June 18 (RKB&SSV)- In a noble gesture, former MLA of Krishnaraja, M.K. Somashekar has arranged for handing over the dead body of a COVID positive patient as a Private Hospital had refused till the settlement of bill. He also made the management to pay money towards conducting last rites of the deceased.

Recently, a Corona positive woman was admitted to a Private Hospital for treatment. Her husband, a resident of Ramanuja Road, works as watchman. She succumbed to Coronavirus on Wednesday.

But the Hospital authorities refused to handover the body till the bill of Rs. 2 lakh was cleared. On receipt of information, Somashekar came to the spot and convinced the hospital management to handover the body without insisting on clearing the pending amount.

Somashekar said the deceased was working as maid and leaves behind two kids. The family was not in a condition to pay Rs. 2 lakh bill.

Her husband had deposited Rs.20,000 yesterday morning and even that money was returned to the family towards conducting last rites of the deceased lady.

Efforts are on to ascertain lithium deposit in Mandya village: AMD

Bengaluru, June 18 (Agency) - Atomic Minerals Directorate (AMD) for Exploration and Research, a constituency unit of the Department of Atomic Energy and Geological Survey of India, has clarified that AMD is the sole exploration agency which is exploring the area for spodumene and niobium-tantalum minerals from pegmatite gravels in Allapatna-Marlagalla sector in Srirangapatna taluk, Mandya district since 1979.

It has been reported in a section of media that the estimates of lithium metal have been quoted to be as high as 14,100 tonnes in a small patch of surveyed area in Mandya district of Southern Karnataka. However, the AMD would like to clarify that exploration efforts have so far established 1,600 tonnes lithium in inferred category (low level of confidence) in Allapatna-Marlagalla sector.

This is a preliminary estimate and requires further exploration efforts to convert the estimated resources to exploitable category with high degree of confidence level and explore the possibility of augmenting lithium resources in the area.

Further, unless a proper technology/method is available to profitably extract lithium from its ore, the real benefit of exploration may not be there. With the data presently available with AMD, the exploration cannot actual economic benefits at this stage.

AMD has the mandate of surveying, prospecting and development of resources of uranium, thorium, niobium, tantalum, lithium, beryllium and Rare Earth Elements (REE) as these minerals are required for supporting the Nuclear Power Programme of the country.

Lithium is a key element for new technologies and finds its existence in ceramics, glass, telecommunication and aerospace industries. The well- known uses of lithium are in Lithium ion batteries, lubricating grease, high energy additive to rocket propellants, optical modulators for mobile phones and as converter to tritium used as a raw material for thermonuclear reactions i.e. fusion. The thermonuclear application makes lithium as "Prescribed substance" under the Atomic Energy Act, 1962 which permits AMD for exploration of lithium in various geological domains of the country.

Due to the increasing demand of lithium ion batteries, the requirement of lithium has increased over the last few years. Keeping the national interest in mind, AMD has intensified exploration for lithium in various geological domains of the country. Meanwhile, AMD is carrying out exploration to augment lithium resources in other geological domains of the country. Further work in this direction is in progress.

Serptentine queue at COVID testing centres disappears

Mysuru, June 18 (MTY&SSV)- The number of people coming for COVID test is declining due to pandemic slowing coming under control in the district.

Though, the Corona positive cases were heading southwards, the deaths were still on the higher side thus worrying for the District authorities.

The District Administration has opened additional COVID testing centres in city to ramp up testing for early detection of cases. This has avoided the serpentine queues in front of the testing centres. In May, COVID testing was limited not only in city, but also in Taluks. With the spike in Corona positive cases, it was suspected that the contagion had spread to the community. This had made large number of citizens to flock various testing centres.

The deployment of one mobile unit for each zone by Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) to test primary and secondary contacts of every Corona positive patient has also reduced the queue before the static testing Centres.

Daily Target: A daily target of 1,425 COVID tests has been set for the City, which included 150 each in Town Hall, Jayanagar PHC and near Dufferin Clock Tower, 125 in Makkala Koota, 100 in Quba School Amphitheatre and 50 each in Kumbarakoppal PHC, Rajendranagar, Bannimantap, V.V. Puram, Beedi Workers Hospital, Nachanahalli Palya PHC, T.K. Layout and Mobile unit. One hundred tests at District Hospital, 50 at SMT Hospital (for critical patients only) and at K.R. Hospital from 3 pm to 8 pm. On Thursday, 1,226 COVID tests were held out of which 131 tested positive. 200 tests are conducted in every taluk daily.

WORD OF THE DAY

Virtuoso

Pronunciation: ver-choo-OH-soh.
Meaning: One who excels in the technique of an art; especially : a highly skilled musical performer (as on the violin); an experimenter or investigator especially in the arts and sciences : savant; one skilled in or having a taste for the fine arts.
Origin: English speakers borrowed the Italian noun virtuoso in the 1600s, but the Italian word had a former life as an adjective meaning both "virtuous" and "skilled." The first virtuosos (the English word can be pluralised as either virtuosos or, in the image of its Italian forbear, as virtuosi) were individuals of substantial knowledge and learning ("great wits," to quote one 17th-century clergyman). The word was then transferred to those skilled in the arts and to skilled musicians, specifically. In time, English speakers broadened virtuoso to apply to a person adept in any pursuit.
Example: "Perhaps most captivating is the sheer range of strange, delicate and piercing sounds the brilliant Bjarke Mogensen draws from the accordion; who needs synthesizers when you have this virtuoso in your ensemble?" — The New York Times, 6 May 2021.

THE ODD WORD

Vaccimulgence

Cow milking.

PHRASE OF THE DAY

Vanish into thin air

Meaning: Disappear without trace.
Origin: Shakespeare came close to this phrase in Othello, 1604:
Clown: Then put up your pipes in your bag, for I'll away. Go; vanish into air; away! and closer still in The Tempest, 1610:
Prospero: These our actors, as I foretold you, were all spirits and are melted into air, into thin air. It seems clear that Shakespeare coined the terms thin air (which has been widely used since the 17th century by a diverse collection of authors, including John Milton (1671), William Blake (1800) and Ed McBain (1977) and vanish into air, used by lesser-known author; James Hogg, in his work Mountain Bard, 1807. Shakespeare didn't put the two together to make vanish into thin air though. The first use I can find of that phrase, which is clearly an adaptation of Shakespeare's terms, is in The Edinburgh Advertiser, April 1822, in a piece about the imminent conflict between Russia and Turkey: The latest communications make these visions "vanish into thin air."

QUOTE BOX

You will face many defeats in life, but never let yourself be defeated.

—Maya Angelou

RIDDLE THIS

Solve the rebus:

Anniversaryyy

Answer: Wise after the event.

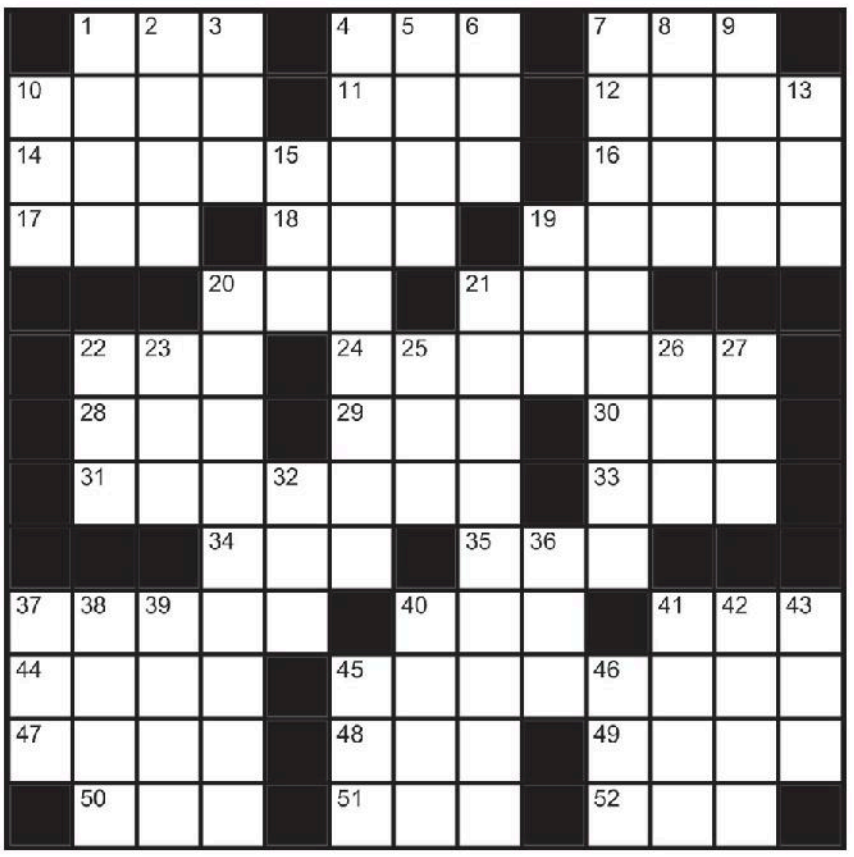
CROSS WORD

ACROSS:
1 Ref. book
4 Dine
7 "Rockaria!" band
10 Opposed
11 Navigation Mgmnt. Unit
12 Papa's wife?
14 Vaulting game
16 At all times
17 Superlative suffix
18 Bollywood's Aishwarya __ Bachchan
19 Practical joke
20 Swindle
21 Concert
22 A Programming Lang.
24 Objectives
28 Commonly used word for a woman in Hindi or Marathi
29 Put to work
30 And not either?
31 Totally or absolutely
33 Dove-call
34 Pedal digit
35 Cut and dried grass
37 Colour for go
40 Superior of a maj.
41 Contend
44 Duo
45 Questioning
47 Trigonometric term
48 ___ Biao : Mao Zedong's famous general?
49 Hum a tune
50 Light-Emitting Diode
51 Ancient or aged
52 Electronic Instrument Sys.

DOWN
1 Those singular items
2 Coup d'- ___ : change of Govt.
3 A quick swim
4 Delight
5 Mine, in Aix
6 ___ of war : the rope-pulling sport?
7 Critical situation
8 Molten rock
9 Prophetic sign
10 Type of beer
13 Noah's ship
15 Pan-broil
19 Domestic hog
20 Sparkled
21 Breed of dog
22 Rajasthan's Mount ___
23 ___ down: search a person for concealed weapon, etc.?
25 Above sea level
26 In addition
27 Standing Room Only, abbr.
32 Long time
36 Priestly garment
37 Navigational system in short
38 Means of travel
39 One in Bonn
40 Series of spirals
41 Roman eight
42 Small hotels by the wayside
43 Ovum
45 Dead Letter Off.
46 T.S. Eliot's initials

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER

S	A	S	H	■	A	I	R	■	S	T	A	B
H	O	P	E	■	N	D	A	■	T	O	P	I
O	P	A	L	■	T	E	N	■	E	L	A	N
P	A	C	■	D	I	S	S	U	A	D	E	S
■	■	I	C	Y	■	■	A	S	K	■	■	■
P	H	O	N	E	T	I	C	S	■	H	O	E
F	A	U	N	■	W	O	K	■	P	E	W	S
D	O	S	■	M	I	N	S	T	R	E	L	S
■	■	■	D	A	L	■	■	T	E	D	■	■
E	S	S	A	Y	I	S	T	S	■	L	S	I
A	H	A	T	■	G	N	U	■	S	E	E	N
S	O	N	U	■	H	O	N	■	U	S	E	D
T	E	E	M	■	T	B	A	■	E	S	P	Y



SUDOKU

	8		3			1		
	3	6	9				4	2
7							6	
			2		8		1	6
9	2		5		6			
	9							7
1	7				4	3	5	
		4			9		8	

Answer to previous puzzle

3	9	5	7	1	6	8	2	4
2	1	6	8	5	4	3	7	9
4	8	7	3	2	9	1	6	5
8	7	1	4	9	3	2	5	6
5	6	4	2	7	8	9	1	3
9	3	2	5	6	1	4	8	7
7	2	9	1	4	5	6	3	8
1	4	3	6	8	7	5	9	2
6	5	8	9	3	2	7	4	1

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Concept is Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

CRYPTOQUIP

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

GOY BIYV TIH AWIHYPH LIQ ZWIK FIJY. NQH

FIJY, HI VIKY YSHYTH, AWIHYPHV LIQ ZWIK GOY.

TODAY'S CLUE: Q EQUALS U

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: To you I'm an atheist; to God, I'm the Loyal Opposition - Woody Allen

Political leaders come to the aid of needy during pandemic

Mysuru, June18 (MTY&DM)- District Minister S.T. Somashekar and Agriculture Minister B.C. Patil distributed ration kits to associate cinema artistes and amateur theatre artistes affected by COVID pandemic. The kits were distributed at a programme organised under the joint aegis of Kannada and Culture Department and Mysuru District Amateur Theatre Artistes Forum at Kalamandira premises on Hunsur Road here on Wednesday.

Kannada and Culture Department Assistant Director H. Chennappa said that District Minister Somashekar has sponsored 520 kits, which were distributed to 120 associate cinema artistes and 400 theatre artistes. The Minister has also assured of sending more kits if required, he added.

Chennappa pointed out that earlier, a total of 600 kits, including 300 sponsored by MCDCC Bank President G.D. Harish Gowda and 300 provided by Artistes Welfare Association were distributed.

The 520 kits provided by the District Minister have been distributed among those who did not get ration kits then, he noted.

Continuing, he said that there are about 4,500 artistes in Mysuru district, out of which 2,000 are in Mysuru City alone.

Vaccination Drive: District Minister Somashekar also launched the vaccination drive for artistes at Kiru Rangamandira in Kalamandira premises.

Speaking on the occasion, Chennappa said that vaccination of artistes has been launched. Pointing out that 400 artistes will receive jabs in the first phase, he said that the Department will take measures for getting more doses of the vaccine based on demand.

DC Dr. Bagadi Gautham, MUDA Chairman H.V. Rajeev, MyLAC Chairman N.V. Phaneesh, ZP CEO A.M. Yogesh, MCC Commissioner G. Lakshmikantha Reddy, DCP M.S. Geetha Prasanna, Mysuru District Amateur Theatre Artistes Forum President Suresh Babu, Hon. Advisor Rajashekar Kadamba, theatre artistes Basavalingaiah, Ramachandra and others were present on the occasion.

Grocery kits were distributed to about 40 families by Congress leader N.M. Naveen Kumar at the Congress Office near City Railway Station yesterday. Congress Seva Dal President Girish,Youth Congress President Mohammed Haris, City Congress Secretary Shivalingaiah, leaders Rajesh, Sunil, Pavan Siddaramu and others were present.

Corporator Sowmya Umesh Kumar distributed grocery kits to poor families at MCC Ward No. 49 recently. Pharmacist Suresh Babu, Umesh Kumar, Mahadev, Nithin, Manju, Somashekar, Rajesh and others were present.

Associations seek special package, vaccination drive

Mysuru, June 18 (PM&SSV)- Several organisations have submitted memorandum to Deputy Commissioner Dr. Bagadi Gautham in support of their various demands here recently.

As lockdown is in force and protests not allowed by the Police, leaders of various organisations submitted memorandums to the DC.

Zakeer Husen, President of Devaraj Urs Prathime Pratishtapana Samiti, has urged the State Government to hold house-to-house free vaccination campaign in rural areas in the wake of surge in Corona positive cases in villages. The increase in number of deaths in rural areas due to COVID-19 has panicked people.

Since villagers were not intelligent enough to upload their details in the CoWIN App, the District Administration must do on-the-spot registration of names and free vaccination to people near their doorsteps. Since villagers are busy with the onset of monsoon, it will be good if the vaccination was done in their villages than asking them to go to nearby vaccination booths, he said.

Samiti Working President M. Chandrashekar, progressive thinker and writer, Prof. K.S. Bhagwan, former Mayor Purushotham and others were present.

Suitable package

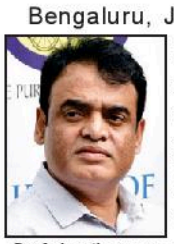
Meanwhile, members of Left parties like CPI (M), CPI, SUCI (C), CPI (ML), AIFB, RPI and SI also submitted a memorandum to the DC seeking a suitable package for COVID-19 hit people.

In a press release, they said thousands of people have lost jobs due to stoppage of economic activities. On top of it, there is an acute shortage of medicine, bed, oxygen and vaccine owing to medical mafia and bed blocking.

The Government must institute an inquiry and take action on legislators who were involved in the scams. The two packages worth Rs. 1,423 crore announced by Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa were not sufficient as only five lakh people would benefit as against the total population of 6.5 crore.

They also urged the Government to give a special cash package of Rs. 10,000 to each poor family and foods kits on behalf of both the State and the Union Governments. The signatories included U. Basavaraj, Secretary, CPI(M), Saathi Sundaresh, Secretary, CPI, K. Uma, Secretary, SUCI(C), Clifton D. Rozario, Secretary, CPI (ML), G.R. Shivashankar, Secretary, AIFB, Chamara Maali Patil, Secretary, Swaraj India and Mohan Raj, President, RPI.

Govt. committed to fully vaccinate 18-plus before Dec. 2021



Dr. Ashwathnarayan

Bengaluru, June 18 (SSV)- Regretting the raging controversy over the life-saving COVID-19 vaccine in political circles, Dr. C.N. Ashwathnarayan, Deputy Chief Minister and State COVID Task Force Ministerial Committee Chairman said the Government was committed to complete vaccination of 18-plus category population before December 2021.

Speaking after inaugurating a special vaccination drive for advocates at Kanteerava Stadium organised jointly by Advocates for Green Earth and BBMP here recently, he said vaccine was the only weapon they have to fight against the pandemic. However, lot of politics was going on regarding vaccination. Prime Minister Narendra Modi successfully faced the conspiracies in the international level and the State Government has given a fitting reply to politics over vaccination in the State, he added.

He said the research, manufacturing and vaccination of COVID-19 vaccine has been very fast in India than in other nations. This needs to be acknowledged by one and all. "I appeal everyone to take vaccine, get your family members vaccinated and also convince your neighbours to get inoculated," he said.

DHO Dr. T. Amarnath transferred

Dr. K.H. Prasad is new DHO

Mysuru, June 18 (SBD&DM)- Days after two IAS officers and two IPS officers were transferred from the city, the State Government on Thursday has transferred District Health Officer (DHO) Dr. T. Amarnath, amidst rising COVID cases.

Dr. Amarnath's transfer comes days after IAS officers Rohini Sindhuri (Deputy Commissioner) and Shilpa Nag (MCC Commissioner) and IPS officers C.B. Ryshyanth (SP) and Dr. A.N. Prakash Gowda (DCP-L&O) were transferred out of Mysuru earlier this month.

Dr. Amarnath

Dr. K.H. Prasad

Dr. Prasad, who was serving as the Deputy Director of Mysuru Division of Health and Family Welfare Services has been appointed as the new Mysuru DHO in place of Dr. T. Amarnath, who has been posted as the Deputy Director of Mysuru Division of Health and Family Welfare Services, replacing Dr. K.H. Prasad.

It may be mentioned here that District Minister S.T. Somashekar had taken the outgoing DHO Dr. T. Amarnath to task for failing to check the spread of the deadly COVID -19 pandemic at a meeting held in the city earlier this month.

The new Mysuru DHO Dr. K.H. Prasad had earlier served as Chamarajanagar DHO from 2016 to 2019, during which, he, along with the then Chamarajanagar DC B.B. Kaveri had deftly handled the health crisis that arose out of Sulwadi Temple food poisoning incident, in which atleast 17 people lost their lives and over 100 others took ill.

IMA National Protest Day

(Continued from page 1)

The doctors have tried their best to bring these distressing acts to the notice of the Prime Minister, Home Minister, Health Minister and Chief Ministers of various States, said Dr. Anand Ravi.

He said the purpose of holding today's protest was to bring to the notice of PM about the frequent attacks on doctors on COVID-19 duty and to demand a suitable law to check violence on them.

Former IMA State President Dr. B.V. Rajagopal, former President of IMA Mysuru Dr. Prasanna Shankar and President-Elect Dr. Sujatha Srinivasarao accompanied the IMA delegation to meet the DC and submit the memorandum. Meanwhile, the doctors staged a symbolic protest at K.R. Hospital in city to condemn assault on doctors.

COVID crisis: Government defers local body polls by 6 months

Anwar Baig to continue as Acting Mysuru Mayor

Bengaluru, June 18 (KMS&DM)- In a significant decision amid COVID-19 crisis, the State Government has deferred all local body and municipal polls by at-least six months.

Anwar Baig

Under Secretary of Urban Development Department K.L. Prasad has issued an order to this effect, according to which the election of heads of City Corporations, City Municipal Councils (CMC), Town Municipal Councils (TMC) and Taluk Panchayats (TP) has been deferred by six months in the wake of COVID crisis. The order said that the deferment has been made following a Cabinet decision.

Anwar Baig to continue as Acting Mysuru Mayor

With the Government issuing an order deferring polls for election of President and Vice-President of all Urban Local Bodies, the Mysuru Mayoral polls too will not take place for the next six months. As a result, Anwar Baig of Congress, who is functioning as the acting Mysuru Mayor since the past three weeks, following the disqualification of Rukmini Madegowda of the JD(S), will continue to function in his post(Acting Mayor) until the polls for electing the new Mayor is held.

Anwar Baig, who was the Deputy Mayor in the MCC, ruled by JD(S)-Congress coalition, was appointed as the acting Mayor after the Karnataka High Court on May 26, had annulled the election of Rukmini Madegowda from MCC ward No. 36, which resulted in her disqualification as the Mayor.

DL, RC validity extended till Sept. 30

New Delhi, June 18 (Agencies)- The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) yesterday extended the validity of motor vehicle documents like Driving Licence (DL), Registration Certificate (RC) and permits till Sept. 30, 2021.

This means that the documents such as vehicle fitness certificate, permit, driving licence, registration, etc., that have expired since Feb. 1, 2020 can be renewed till Sept. 30. The decision has been taken in view of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

The Ministry has advised the enforcement authorities that the validity of fitness, permit (all types), licence, registration or any other concerned document(s) may be treated to be valid till Sept. 30, 2021.

"This covers all documents whose validity has expired since Feb. 1, 2020 or would expire by Sept. 30, 2021. This will help out citizens in availing transport-related services, while maintaining social distancing," it said in an advisory.

The Ministry also added that all the States and Union Territories must implement this advisory in letter and spirit so that citizens, transporters and various other organisations, which are operating under this difficult time, may not get harassed and face difficulties.

However, the Pollution Under Control (PUC) certificates have been exempted from the extension, as clarified by officials. In a similar extension provided earlier on Mar. 26, the Government had extended the validity of all such documents that had expired between February 2020 and June 30, 2021, again citing pandemic-related restrictions.

Union Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari also said that the validity of documents related to the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 has been extended till Sept. 30, 2021. "This covers all documents whose validity has expired since Feb.1, 2020 or would expire by Sept. 30, 2021. Enforcement authorities are advised to treat such documents valid till Sept. 30, 2021," he tweeted.

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